

In the Specification:

On page 7 of the specification in the first paragraph, please insert the following paragraph in its stead:

The preferred nanoclays in the context of the present invention are natural montmorillonite modified with any of a variety of ~~quaternary~~ quaternary ammonium salts and phosphonium salts. Such ~~quaternary~~ quaternary ammonium salts modified clays are commercially available from Southern Clay Products under Cloistite®. Most preferred nanoclays are Cloistite 20A and Cloistite 25A. Cloistite 20A is a natural montmorillonite modified with a ~~quaternary~~ quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl, dihydrogenated tallow with a chloride as a counter anion. Cloistite 25A is a natural montmorillonite modified with a quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl, hydrogenated tallow, 2-ethylhexyl with methyl sulfate as a counter ion.